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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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21 April 1965

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CONTENTS

1. Vietnam: Current situation report.
2. Yemen: Three out of the five members of new presidential council are anti-Egyptian. (Page 4)

25X1

4. Notes:

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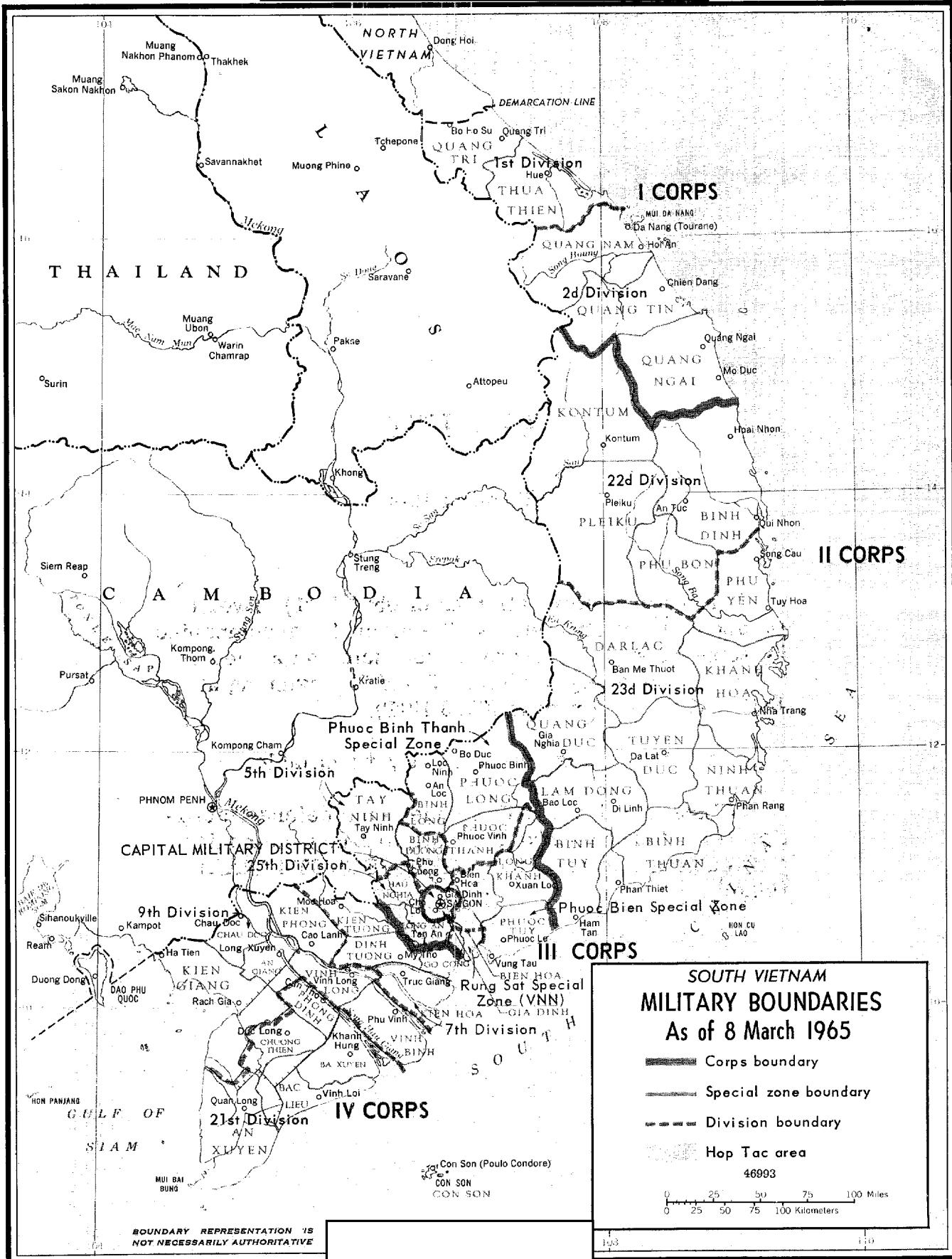
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25X1

25X1

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Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt



21 Apr 65 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN Map

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

21 April 1965

*Vietnam: (Information as of 2400 EST, 20 April)
Major fighting has been reported during the past two days between South Vietnamese troops and the Viet Cong south of the Da Nang air base.

Government forces, operating north of the capital of Quang Tin Province near the frequently harassed Viet An outpost, encountered heavy resistance from an estimated three Viet Cong battalions on 19 April. Air support provided yesterday by more than 40 US fighter and bomber aircraft from Da Nang reportedly resulted in the destruction of an anti-aircraft emplacement and six structures. In addition, several large fires and secondary explosions were noted. Preliminary estimates of Viet Cong casualties from the air strikes are close to 150 killed; government losses to date are nine killed and 29 wounded, including five Americans.

[A document captured in late March in Binh Duong Province north of Saigon indicates that the Viet Cong have been making preparations for a major campaign in that area,]

Targets of the campaign were reported to be provincial and district capitals along the highway running due north of Saigon toward Cambodia.

[the Viet Cong have been recruiting, stockpiling, and concentrating units in the same general area.]

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Elsewhere, Peiping is intensifying its propaganda effort to mobilize support, both foreign and domestic,

for the regime's policy on Vietnam. On 20 April Peiping announced that the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress had adopted a resolution calling for the Chinese people to join "with the world's people" in launching a "powerful mass movement" to force the United States out of Vietnam. The Chinese people were instructed to make "full preparations" to send men to fight alongside the Vietnamese "people" in the event the US "continues to expand the war" and the "Vietnamese people need them." While putting the National People's Congress stamp of approval on previous Peiping declarations, the resolution continues to place conditions on the introduction of Chinese personnel into Vietnam. It does not extend Peiping's commitment beyond previous pronouncements.

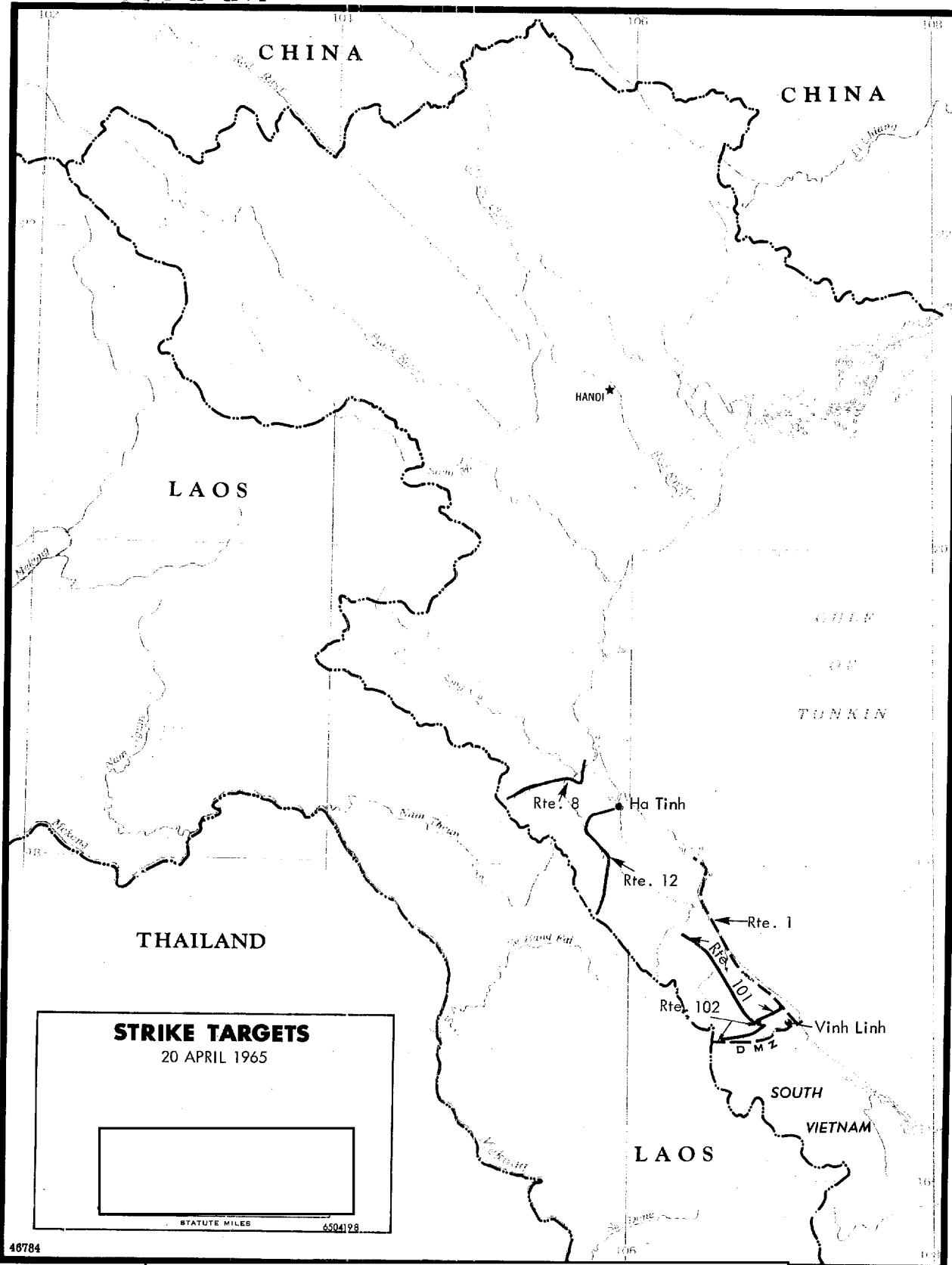
The resolution also continues Peiping's hard line on negotiations. It terms Hanoi's four-point formula for a settlement the "sole and correct" path for resolving the Vietnamese question. This line is less flexible than that employed by the North Vietnamese Premier who, on 8 April, said merely that the formula represents the "soundest basis" for a political settlement.

25X1

25X1

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NORTH VIETNAM



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21 Apr 65 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN Map

Indian Prime Minister Shastri has again criticized American bombing in North Vietnam. New Delhi radio reported that he told a reception of the Indo-Soviet Cultural Society that if US raids continue, "there is hardly any point in President Johnson's acceptance of the nonaligned countries' proposals for talks without pre-conditions. The bombings must stop, and that will make talks possible. India's policy," he continued, "is to bring an end to the hostilities..."

US and South Vietnamese air strikes and road reconnaissance missions on 20 April achieved limited results, including the destruction of several trucks and the creation of landslides at a chokepoint along Route 8. Two US Navy aircraft were lost. Both pilots are presumed dead.

A combined US and South Vietnamese strike against the My Duc bridge on Route 101 cratered both approaches and slightly damaged the bridge. The majority of the missions, including three flown at night, involved armed route reconnaissance of the major roads south of the 20th parallel. Several buildings, barges, boats, and trucks were attacked but no results are yet available. Pilots report encountering heavy antiaircraft and automatic weapons fire during several of the attacks. One group of aircraft flying a barrier combat air patrol reported three distinct radar contacts but were unable to effect visual identification. The contacts occurred in the vicinity of Cap Mui Ron, some 200 miles south of the North Vietnamese fighter base at Phuc Yen.

25X1

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Yemen: Anti-Egyptian elements have apparently gained a significant foothold in the new Yemeni Government under Premier Numan which was announced yesterday.

Three out of five members of a new presidential council have been identified with the anti-Egyptian "third force" group which has pressed for a broadly based government and a drastic reduction of Egyptian forces in Yemen. The other two members--President Sallal and former premier Amri--are both friendly to Egypt, and may carry enough weight to counterbalance the others.

25X1

Neither Numan nor any of the "third force" appointees has significant tribal backing. It appears doubtful that they can manage to reduce Egyptian control without bringing powerful tribal leaders back into the government. Additional cabinet appointments may be made after the scheduled conference of the northern tribes later this week at which Numan hopes to gain tribal backing.

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Faced by failure of Amri's blatantly pro-Egyptian cabinet, Nasir is apparently attempting to seek an accommodation with the "third force" republican opposition. By this means he may hope to buy time while searching for a more lasting solution to Egypt's problem in Yemen.

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NOTES

USSR: Premier Kosygin's recently published speech outlining directions for the new five-year plan (1966-70) stressed a continuing development of the Soviet economy in favor of the consumer and his standard of living, according to preliminary press reports. Kosygin's call for higher wages, more consumer goods, and increased housing construction makes commitments to the public beyond those contained in the extensive new agricultural program. The regime has not yet indicated which sectors of the taut Soviet economy will be called upon to provide the resources for these consumer-oriented projects.

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United Nations: Secretary General Thant, who had hoped to postpone a formal meeting of the Committee on Finance and Peacekeeping, has agreed to hold one tomorrow to accommodate an "insistent request" by Soviet delegate Fedorenko. Fedorenko said he wished to learn the views of other members, especially the smaller countries, and to make a "brief statement." He dropped no clues on what he intended to say.

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Communist Countries - UAR: Communist countries now have made available over \$800 million in credits for Egypt's seven-year development plan which is scheduled to begin on 1 July. The USSR has provided the largest amount--at least \$333 million in long-term credits--and has offered another \$110 million in medium-term credits. A new Czech credit has raised East European assistance to about \$325-345 million, while Communist China has provided \$80 million.

25X1

25X1

21 Apr 65

6

25X1

25X1

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South Korea: The government appears to have been fairly successful in dealing with the initial student disturbances against the government's planned settlement with Japan, but it is keeping its riot police on full alert and troops remain in Seoul ready to back them up. Student rioting, expected to reach a climax on the anniversary of the 1960 revolution on 19 April, fizzled out--partly because of rainy weather and a campus recess--into a silent march by 200 Seoul students. Demonstrations yesterday by 700 students in Seoul and 500 in Chonju indicate that student feeling is still strong, however.

25X1

25X1

21 Apr 65

7

25X1

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